

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

PROPOSAL NO. 21 OF 2016

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIA

In July 2016 the Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information from administrative records held by State and Territory corrective services agencies on the number and characteristics of adult prisoners serving custodial sentences. Data is submitted to the ABS electronically by secure means. The collection will continue to be undertaken annually.

Information will be collected on the number and characteristics of adult prisoners in Australia including:

- prisoner characteristics
- the most serious offence associated with a prisoner
- sentence length
- characteristics of prisoners serving sentences for offences against commonwealth legislation

The principal users of the collection are:

- State and Territory corrective services agencies
- Commonwealth and State and Territory Attorney-Generals and Justice departments
- government crime and justice research institutes
- crime and justice research centres within universities across Australia
- the public.

Statistics produced from the collection will be used to make meaningful comparisons of the number and characteristics of custodial prisoners across states and territories in Australia. This will allow policy makers to assess and evaluate crime and justice related policy used throughout the states and territories and facilitate both researchers and policy makers to identify emerging trends in imprisonment and respond accordingly.

Results from the collection are expected to be released in late 2016.

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